

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3103

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SP

SUBJ: TERRORISM - SPANISH EXECUTE FIVE CONVICTED  
TERRORISTS

REF: MADRID 6704

1. THE GOS EXECUTED THE FIVE CONDEMNED TERRORISTS, TWO  
ETA (BASQUE SEPARATIST) AND THREE FRAP (SELF-STYLED MARXIST-  
LENINISTS). THEY WERE SHOT BY FIRING SQUAD RATHER THAN  
GARROTED, IN A CHANGE PRESUMABLY DESIGNED TO AVOID FOREIGN  
REPULSION AGAINST THE MEDIEVAL METHOD OF EXECUTION THAT HAS BEEN  
THE NORMAL METHOD HERE (E.G. THE 1974 EXECUTION OF PUIG ANTICH).

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2. THE GOS ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT FRANCO, AS

HEAD OF STATE, COMMUTED THE SENTENCES OF THE OTHER SIX WHO HAD BEEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH. ALL FIVE OR THOSE EXECUTED HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDERS OF POLICEMEN. (11 MEMBERS OF VARIOUS POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN MURDERED THIS YEAR BY TERRORISTS.)

3. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED THE NEWS OF THE EXECUTION DECISION, BUT HAS KEPT ITS COMMENT RESTRAINED (THE ANTI-TERRORIST LAW, WITH ITS PENALTIES FOR NEWS MEDIA, WOULD KEEP EVEN THE MOST ARDENT OPPONENTS OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FROM SPEAKING OUT DIRECTLY). THE INDEPENDENT, CATHOLIC ORIENTED YA DID CALL FOR CLEMENCY YESTERDAY PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND TODAY DREW ON THE ARCHBISHOP OF BARCELONA'S MESSAGE REPORTED EARLIER TO SUGGEST THAT REPRESSION IS A FORM OF SURGERY THAT KEEPS THE STATE ALIVE, BUT FULL HEALTH CAN ONLY BE RESTORED BY OTHER KINDS OF MEDICINE. IT WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SPANISH PASTORAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BITE THE CONSCIENCE OF ALL THOSE, THE GOVERNED AND THOSE WHO GOVERN, WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S ARRIBA AND THE MONARCHIST ABC NOTED A BALANCE BETWEEN JUSTICE AND CLEMENCY. ABC CALLED FOR SPANIARDS TO WORK TOWARD A FREER, MORE LIBERAL ERA. ARRIBA TALKED OF THE NEED TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE URGENT TASK OF MAKING THE POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS PROCESS WORK.

4. THE HANDLING ON STATE-RUN TV OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE EXECUTIONS WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, GARCIA HERNANDEZ, IN RESPONSE TO A STAGED QUESTION ASKING SPAIN TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS IN HER INTERNAL AFFAIRS, DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS WHICH, WITH ONE EXCEPTION (NOT NAMED) HAD BEEN QUITE PROPERLY DONE AND THE EXPRESSIONS OF HISTORICAL ANTI-SPANISH (NOT JUST ANTI-GOS) PREJUDICE IN THE FORM OF DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC. (GARCIA HERNANDEZ ALSO DISMISSED THE RUMORS OF CABINET DISSENSION OVER THE EXECUTIONS AS A FAIRY TALE.) THE NEXT NEWS CLIP TALKED OF CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON THE U.S./SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE EXPECT THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMEN WILL RECEIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EXECUTIONS.  
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POSSIBLY SOME QUESTIONERS WILL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THAT PROGRESS ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS IS EVIDENCE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE FRANCO REGIME IN A TIME OF REPRESSION.  
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